

Remarks

In this response, claims 39 and 44 are cancelled, without prejudice, and claims 27, 31, and 40 have been amended.

Claims 3-6, 10-11, 23, 26-28, 31-33, 35, 37-38, 40-43, and 45 are pending.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, claims 27, 31, 3, 6, 10 -11, 23, 26, 28, 32-33, 35-38, 40-43 and 45 are rejected under 35 § U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Blinn et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,897,622) (hereinafter "Blinn") in view of Wolff (U.S. Patent No. 6,247,047) (hereinafter "Wolff"), and further in view of Bezos et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,029,141) (hereinafter "Bezos"); claim 4 is rejected under 35 § U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Blinn et al., Wolff, and Bezos et al., as applied to independent claim 27 above, and further in view of Bij nagte (U.S. Patent No. 5,235,680) (hereinafter "Bij nagte"); and claim 5 is rejected under 35 § U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Blinn et al., Wolff, and Bezos et al., as applied to independent claim 27 above, and further in view of Kirkevold et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,263,322) (hereinafter "Kirkevold").

While the Applicants maintain that these references do not make these claims obvious, in order to further prosecution of the allowed subject matter the Applicants have presented amendments to the remaining independent claims, i.e., claims 27, 31, and 40, to incorporate the elements from claims indicated as having allowable subject matter. Accordingly, all of the remaining claims are presented in a form that has been indicated as being allowable by the Examiner.

Allowable subject matter

In the Office Action, claims 39 and 44 are indicated as having patentable subject matter but objected to for being dependent on a rejected claim base. The elements of

these claims have been incorporated into the underlying independent claims.
Accordingly, these claims have been cancelled.

Conclusion

For these reasons the Applicants believe the present claims are patentable over the cited references and, therefore, respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be issued. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present paper, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (503) 796-2972. If any fees are due in connection with filing this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 500393.

Respectfully submitted,
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